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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 17 | Humidity 38% Clear with periodic clouds Sensex 57,683 | Nifty 17,206 | Gold 50,072 | Silver 63,695 | Dollar 74.61 | Euro 84.55 | GBP 101.56

Demand for coronavirus vaccine plummets in Bengaluru as 'third wave' scare subsides and hospitals worry about wasted doses

SHOT FALL

4,64,65,460 people vaxxed with two doses in Karnataka

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A large number of people were rushing to get themselves inoculated during the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic. Quite similar was the case in the beginning of the third wave amidst the Omicron variant scare — many of those who had received their vaccine shots were visiting hospitals to get themselves jabbed.

Now, however, the demand for the covid-19 vaccine has fallen; at many hospitals, covid vaccine stocks are going to expire soon, we are told.

When vaccinations began on January 16, 2021, prioritising healthcare workers, initially there was much hesitancy.

Soon, the trend picked up and shots were made available to the other eligible age groups. During the beginning of the second wave, people made a beeline to get vaccinated, but once the wave saw a downward trend, the demand for vaccines fell as compared to the supply.

The recent extension of Covaxin shelf life to 12 months from six, after relabelling, helped hospitals to continue administering stocks; but now, some of the hospitals representatives BM spoke to said stocks will start expiring from the month of May onwards.

Director of Suguna Hospital Dr Ravindra R said: "Most of Covaxin stocks will expire in May. Right now, the demand is very low; we are seeing a very low number of individuals coming forward for vaccination. This might remain the same for the next few months; vaccine doses will be wasted."

> **"We are hardly seeing people coming forward for vaccination; even those who are due for the second dose...**
> — HM Prasanna, president, PHANA

HM Prasanna, president of Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association (PHANA), said though some of the vials would still have time to hit expiry dates, as people are not coming forward, these might be of no use too.

"We are hardly seeing people coming forward to carry out vaccination against covid-19. Even those who are due for the second dose are not coming forward. The process has considerably slowed down.

For the booster dose, however, many still have time to get it done; those who are eligible for the booster dose haven't been coming forward either. Though the government has

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

What's lurking behind big city lights

Accused told victim she could earn good money attending events

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With criminals reaching out to young girls through social media and trafficking them into the so-called illegal 'live bands' operating in the city under the pretext of giving them jobs at events, city police have warned parents to monitor their children's activities online more closely.

In a recent case, last week, a 14-year-old girl left her house in Jharkhand saying that she was going out to get some snacks; she did not return home.

Her parents filed a complaint with the local police who traced her within a day from a live band in the city through tracking CCTV footage and network tracing. Police said the girl was active on social media and would keep posting reels of her acting and dancing for several songs and had a good number of followers.

DCP North East Anoop A Shetty said the accused, who is based in a north Indian state, connected to the victim through

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Sacred Sentinels

KYNKYNY.com's latest virtual exhibition, Sacred Sentinels, features Hyderabad-based artist Bhaskar Rao Botcha's looming, moody treescapes. Trees are the central and recurring characters in Bhaskar Rao Botcha's strikingly atmospheric paintings. Drawing from memories, personal history, culture, folklore and a love for nature, Botcha's acrylics on canvas are beguiling reflections and meditations on the nature of trees. Sacred Sentinels, which is equal parts botanical and poetic, celebrates our deep affinity for trees and the ancient and timeless bond that we share with them.
Where: KYNKYNY.com
When: Till March 5

02 Mellow tunes

Take a break from the stress and monotony of work by attending a beautiful musical evening at Lahe Lahe. The session will have musical aficionados come and jam together and form a community of like-minded musical souls. What's more, you can even tune out a few songs of yourself too!
Where: Lahe Lahe, HAL 2nd stage, Indiranagar
When: Wednesdays, 7:30pm – 9:30pm
Tickets: 9886294444

03 Circuits of expression

The Gallery @Maya, a slow-living restaurant in Jayanagar, is showcasing an art show "The Circuits of Expressions" by artist Dibyendu Seal. In this collection, Dibyendu captures existence in the "hustle culture" with organic life-forms. Intricately crafting raw expressions, he uses animals as metaphors for human life and weaves a modern-day philosophy in every creation. The paintings have silent yearnings for something beyond the tangible world.

Where: Maya, Jayanagar, 5th Block
When: Till March 15, 12pm – 11pm
Contact: 7483871410

Cases dropping, but no respite for rural areas

Seven rural areas under Bengaluru Urban continue to witness a high number of cases

At KSRTC Bus Stand in Bengaluru, passengers are swabbed for covid-testing

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The number of covid cases may have dropped in Bengaluru Urban; however, some of the rural areas of the district are reporting a greater number of cases as compared to other districts.

Amongst the 20 worst-hit rural villages, seven rural areas are from Bengaluru Urban alone, and have higher number of covid cases which are being reported. Chikkanayakanahalli, Choodasandra, Haraghadde, Kachohalli, Mulluru, Bommenahalli and Bidrakuppe are the rural areas, that are continuing to report covid cases.

In the last four weeks, the Chikkanayakanahalli has reported 145 cases, while Bidrakuppe with 176 cases, Hargadde reported 213 cases, while Kachohalli with 141, Bommenahalli reported the highest with 515 cases and Mulluru at 106.

In comparison to the other districts like Mysuru, Ballari, Kodagu, Udupi, Chitradurga which are some of the rural areas affected with covid cases, Bengaluru Urban yet stands highest with more numbers.

Going by the last seven days figures of the rural areas, the number though have been less than 20 in the seven rural areas; yet, the covid cases are continuously being reported in these regions.

One of the health officials said: "In these areas, there has been movement of people, while many of them are labourers who have been infected. Right now, the situation is under control, as the numbers are not high. The testings are carried out and we are able to catch the cases easily."

Another official stated, "Covid-appropriate behaviour has again come down. Many are seen letting their guards down and are found moving around. We are still continuing to spread awareness. The cases are very little in number in the past week in these areas and there is nothing to worry."

Less than 400 cases in Bengaluru

The daily Covid cases in the city fell below the 400-mark for the first time since the beginning of the third wave. On Monday, Bengaluru recorded 346 fresh cases while Karnataka reported 679. The positivity rate for the day was 1.29 per cent in the state while the case fatality rate was higher with 3.09 per cent as 21 people including eight in Bengaluru had died of Covid. Among the deceased, a 92-year-old woman from the city who was admitted for fever died in hospital after 10 days of treatment at a private hospital while 31-year-old woman from Dharwad who was admitted for ILI died after being in hospital for six days.

No dedicated Covid hospitals for now

The Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare Services has withdrawn the dedicated Covid hospital status. This means that the following hospitals: Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases, Jayanagar, Sir CV Raman General Hospital, Indiranagar, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Centre, Shivajinagar and Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, Jayanagar will start treating other patients as well.

BangaloreMirror
Arsonists now booked for petrol theft

On Feb 21, BM reported on the covid infection dropping in B'luru

In a latest release on Monday, Commissioner D Ranadeep said, "Since the number of Covid cases have drastically declined and there is a decreasing trend in Covid hospital admissions, we are now mandating the said hospitals to allocate a minimum number of isolation beds for future Covid admissions." He also said that the said hospitals should not deny any non-Covid patients for treatment or admission.

Hospitals have vaccines, 'no takers'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

prioritised children's vaccination, that is also seeing just a few takers," he said.

Officials said even the manufacturing companies are not taking back unused stocks — that leaves them with no other option than to keep the vials.

Meanwhile, one of the officials from Bangalore Medical Research Institute (BMCRI) clarified that government hospitals do not have issues with stocks piling up, as they get it based on requirement. "We take the stocks from the BBMP for a week's time and then carry out the vaccination; so there is no problem of stocks getting expired or going to waste. However, we are getting 20-dose batches of Covaxin, which is indeed leading to a lot of wastage, as Covaxin takers are extremely low now; if one person comes in, a batch is opened and then if nobody comes afterwards, the whole batch is wasted. We are seeing a lot of vaccine wastage due to this." said the official.

The state is yet to cover the adult population with 100% second dose coverage. Over 4,64,65,460 people have been vaccinated. While the first dose coverage has been 5,20,65,843 beneficiaries.

Health professionals reiterated the importance of people coming forward to receive both the vaccine doses: "For the third wave, though the Omicron variant may have been mild and was affecting only the upper respiratory tract, vaccination has played a crucial role and kept the severity low amongst individuals, especially for those who got infected during the third wave. Parents should encourage children to get vaccinated. Elderly and those with comorbidities should receive the two jabs without fail; they should not miss out on the booster dose," said a senior doctor at a private hospital.

Breathe behind masks or get off the train

BMRCL imposes fines, strict action against those without masks for covid safety. But commuters are unhappy

Metro trains are proving to be more convenient than other transport modes amid Bengaluru traffic. But there's one problem commuters are facing... something about breathing difficulties.

Covid stirred a fear attached to public transport among citizens. When it comes to Metro trains, the fear is only bigger considering the compartments are closed, air conditioned spaces. So BMRCL passed an order; strict action will be taken against those not wearing masks, else they are bound to pay a penalty of Rs 250.

But many Asthma patients and those with other respiratory issues can't wear masks for long stretches. They seem unhappy that the staff doesn't allow them a little "breathing time". Many are expressing their anguish on social media.

"It's difficult to wear masks for a long time. Sometimes masks slide below our noses accidentally. But the mask squad is so quick; they catch us immediately and penalise us," said Srinivas R, a regular user of Metro services.

BM looked into the perspective of the "mask squad". A BMRCL official said they noticed many commuters remove masks while speaking on phones and often forget to wear them again. This is inconvenient for other commuters who follow mask rules for safety. Therefore, officials follow rules strictly. They catch those taking a break from masks and penalise them.

Many with illnesses like Asthma say they need "mask breaks" to breathe better during long rides

"As per Disaster Management Act, we must follow safety protocols ordered by the government. If people are negligent in wearing masks, they must face the consequences. We must impose a fine on those who can't follow safety rules... We must follow rules to be safe during a pandemic. There is no other way," said BMRCL Chief Engineer and Chief PRO BL Yeshwanth Chavan.

—Prakash VL

Cheque this out, Hagadur

Resident of Hagadur ward receives invalid cheque for mother's death during first wave

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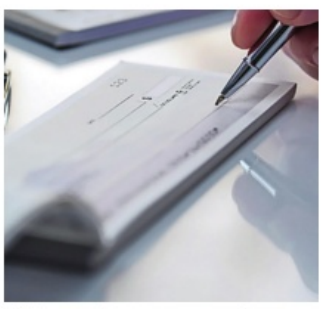

Gopi, a resident of Govindapura of the Hagadur ward, is yet to receive covid compensation from BBMP. The 39-year-old received a cheque from the Palike in December. But an error in the date has caused him terrible trouble.

Gopi is a driver. His mother passed away at 64 in a hospital, in July 2020, due to covid during the first wave. In such cases the civic body is supposed to help the family of covid victims with monetary compensation. But Gopi was unaware of a compensation until recently.

"I wasn't aware of the compensation. I was informed about it only later. So a few months ago, I applied for it. On December 30, I received a cheque from the health inspector and a BBMP assistant engineer," he said.

When depositing the cheque at the bank, Gopi was informed about the error in the cheque.

"Instead of 30-12-2021, they had written the cheque for 30-12-2012. I had not noticed this. It was invaild. I tried to contact BBMP to raise this issue but no one responded. I'm still waiting for them to issue a new one for me," Gopi told BM.

Without a new cheque Gopi cannot acquire the compensation of Rs 1 lakh.

BM spoke with another resident of Hagadur who happens to be a member of the ward group. He said he learned about the issue, so he took a photo of the cheque and posted it on the group for senior officials to notice.

"Gopi kept calling the officials concerned. He really needed money and could have used the compensation amount. After I raised the issue, officials followed up on it. They informed us he would get a new cheque by Tuesday," the ward group member said.

A senior BBMP official said the matter was brought to their notice and has been resolved.

"We needed to apply for the cheque again through an app, which took time as we had to fill the required data and submit an application. The family will receive the cheque by Tuesday," he said.

"They wrote the cheque for 30-12-2012. I hadn't noticed this. It was invalid. I tried to contact BBMP... but no one responded

–Gopi, resident of Govindapur

Further, he told BM there have only been two cases in their ward where families were affected due to technical glitch and did not receive the compensation.

In another case, there was a mistake in filling the names as they had mentioned the same name for the deceased and the applicant. Due to this the cheque could not be processed as the app did not accept the form.

"Both cases have been resolved and both cheques will be issued shortly," the official told BM.

LIC IPO

Reservation for Policyholders

To participate, policyholders must meet the following criteria:

- Resident Individual Policyholders of the Corporation having one or more policies of the Corporation as on February 13, 2022 and Bid/Offer opening date are eligible.*
- **Policyholder's PAN details should be updated with the Corporation on or before February 28, 2022.**

* Please also refer draft red herring prospectus dated February 13, 2022

DEMAT Account Opening

- Go to the nearest Common Service Centre (CSC) to open a DEMAT account.

OR

- Visit either of these websites for registered Depository Participants (DP) to open a DEMAT account:

NSDL: https://nsdl.co.in/Open_NSDL_Demat_Account.php

CDSL: https://www.cdslindia.com/DP/dplist.aspx

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA is proposing, subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to undertake an initial public offer of its Equity Shares and has filed the draft red herring prospectus dated February 13, 2022 ("DRHP") read with the corrigendum dated February 15, 2022. The DRHP is available on the websites of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e., BSE at www.bseindia.com and NSE at www.nseindia.com, respectively and is also available on the websites of the BRLMs, i.e. Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited at https://investmentbank.kotak.com, Axis Capital Limited at www.axiscapital.co.in, BofA Securities India Limited at www.ml-india.com, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited at www.online.citibank.co.in/rhtm/citigroupglobalscreen1.htm, Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited at www.goldmansachs.com, ICICI Securities Limited at www.icicisecurities.com, JM Financial Limited at www.jmfl.com, J.P. Morgan India Private Limited at www.jpmipl.com, Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited at www.nomuraholdings.com/company/group/asia/india/index.html and SBI Capital Markets Limited at www.sbicaps.com. Potential investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, please see the section titled 'Risk Factors' of the RHP, when filed. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP filed with SEBI for making any investment decision. Specific attention of the investors is invited to "Risk Factors" beginning on page 23 of the DRHP.

This announcement does not constitute an offer of securities for sale in any jurisdiction, including the United States, and any securities described in this announcement may not be offered or sold in the United States absent registration under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or an exemption from such registration. No public offering or sale of securities in the United States is contemplated.

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Har Pal Aapke Saath

SWR fixes bearings but the rest is Palike's MES

Flyover needs urgent repair; Railway has done its bit, BBMP is yet to lift a finger

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MES Flyover is mostly used by heavy vehicles. As concrete chips off, motorists worry a sinkhole is in cards

MES Flyover, mostly used by heavy-weight vehicles, is in a bad condition. On February 20 BM reported it's concrete was chipping away, exposing the steel rods and the bad quality of materials used to asphalt the flyover. As it's condition is worsening, South Western Railway stepped in to help fix things.

Although SWR is fixing the bearings of the flyover, the repair work has a long way to go. The authorities said the civic body (BBMP) must fix it as per their agreement. This means BBMP must fix the joint plates.

"After noticing minor damages to the bearings(of the girder), SWR repaired them. The repair or maintenance of expansion joints, the surface coat, etc., comes under BDA's work (which has been handed over to BBMP), as per the cost-sharing agreement," said SWR CPRO Aneesh Hegde.

According to the agreement signed between SWR and BDA before the construction of the flyover, "The bridges proper (foundation, sub-structure and structural components including bearings and returns if any) within railway limits shall be maintained by railways. The above items on the approaches and the bridge wearing cost, expansion joints and parapet protection measures, etc., on the complete bridge and approaches shall be maintained by road authorities (BDA)."

BangaloreMirror
CONCRETE EVIDENCE

On Feb 20 BM reported motorists are afraid to use MES Flyover as its chipping concrete is exposing bad quality building material and steel rods

Further it stated the provision and maintenance of the road surface shall be the responsibility of the road authority (state government) at the cost of the entire portion of the bridge.

"BBMP had asphalted the entire stretch afew years ago. Now, its substandard work has been exposed. BBMP must quickly take action before the condition of the flyover's fish plates worsen. Due to the damages, vehicles move at a slower pace... creating a traffic jam. If the issue is not fixed immediately, speed of motorists will decrease further and worsen the traffic congestion," a traffic expert said.

According to experts any road (black-topped) should have a life of three to five years, while white-topped roads should ideally have a life of over 10 years, without any repairs.

The flyover must be repaired immediately. It is the crucial link connecting Outer Ring Road, BEL Circle and Tumakuru Road. It is also a concern that unlike other ORR flyovers which have six-lanes, MES Flyover only has three lanes. It has been converted into a bi-directional flyover with hardly any space for smooth movement of vehicles. Perhaps, more than mere repairs are in order.

> **"If the issue is not fixed immediately, the speed of motorists will decrease further and worsen the congestion**
>
> –Traffic expert

Just a trim? Yelahanka residents fume

They wonder if it was an unnecessary price for beautification near an art installation

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Piles of trimmed branches lying in a corner near Yelahanka Car Tower

Recently, a few trees were trimmed in Yelahanka New Town. Residents wondered if it was to help highlight an art installation near Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Circle. This has irked residents who believe that it is an unnecessary price to pay for beautification. Moreover, they wonder why more significant issues aren't addressed on a priority basis.

The installation, Yelahanka Car Tower, is quite famous. Many come from all parts of the city to see it. The area is also known for its installations which are inspired by cars.

BM visited the spot to see that the branches of two or three trees had been trimmed. They lay in a pile in a corner. This reporter noticed the park adjacent to the installation was also undergoing modifications. A boundary wall was being constructed and other construction works were in progress in the area around the installation.

"Some beautification work is going on. Trees are being trimmed to highlight sculptures and art installations. This is unnecessary beautification while real issues are not being addressed. The footpath near the area is in a terrible shape. Why is that not being addressed?" wondered Santosh, a resident of Yelahanka.

> **"These trees were only trimmed to make way for a flyover coming to the area...**
>
> –MLA SR Vishwanath

BM spoke with Yelahanka MLA, SR Vishwanath. He clarified the trees were not trimmed for beautification. "These trees were trimmed to make way for the flyover that is coming to the area. Trees along the road leading to the circle are being cut for the same purpose."

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Chop chop
Nagarabhavi

It appears a row of trees have been chopped in the area but the public is unaware of the reason. Concerned citizens demand answers immediately.

Parking, a problem
D'Souza Road

Folks have been violating the no parking rule on D'Souza Road off Hayes Road. Will BBMP take action?

Let there be light
Dinnur Main Road

The streetlights on 2nd Cross do not work. It has been 15 days but the authorities concerned are yet to respond to complaints.

TREK OR THREAT?

Now, you can go trekking only via authorised routes and with pre-booking done online; authorities ramp up security measures for citizens' safety

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Bengalureans, if you're planning your next trek in some of the state's popular hiking trails, do your research first and appoint a certified guide. Following a 21-year-old's fall from a cliff on Sunday at Brahmagiri Hills, authorities are now pulling out all the stops to ensure citizens' safety.

The 21-year-old engineering student from Bengaluru had accidentally fallen from the famed tourist spot next to Nandi Hills. The police are filing a case against the student for trespassing.

Chikkaballapur Deputy Commissioner R Latha said that if citizens want to trek, they have to opt for authorised places where online booking is available. Skandagiri, which was once the most favourite trekking spot for Bengalureans, now accepts only online booking.

The Brahmagiri Hills fall under the Forest Department and forest officials say that if anyone wants to venture into the forest, a requisite permission should be taken from the deputy range forest officer. Chikballapur SP GK Mithun said it was an offense to enter the forests. "We have been posting our personnel at vantage points. However, as the area is huge, a few try to sneak in using different routes," he said.

Gaurav Kumar, a trek organiser said, "There are multiple reasons for people going into uncharted territory. Firstly, it is due to social media. Many put up pictures of places on their social media which influence others to explore such places.

"For example, there is a rock on Avalabetta which is the most photographed rock for social media DPs. The craze is such that people wait for 10-15 minutes just to get a photograph of that rock. However, people fail to realise that it is very dangerous. To prevent entering that rock, the Forest Department had to completely fence the rock. However, as even this didn't stop people from climbing the fence, security personnel are posted to stop people going there. Another major factor is that people want to explore new places without proper homework. This is wrong as people should go only with the help of locals or certified guides so that their safety is guaranteed."

Venturing into unchartered territory can earn you a fine for trespassing

> **People should go for treks only with the help of locals or certified guides so that their safety is guaranteed**
> –Gaurav Kumar, a trek organiser

Sunday's incident was not an isolated one. Recently, a family of six from KR Puram was trapped in Savandurga. After hours of frustration, the missing family was rescued. In 2016, 11 students who had trekked to Savandurga were lost in the hill following heavy rainfall.

However, not everyone is open to the idea of banning treks. Nandini R, a trekker said: "Why should we be penalised for someone's mistake? Instead of banning, why can't the authorities regulate the crowd and provide safe trekking options?"

Animal activists up in arms over abuse

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Members of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), Bengaluru Urban have written a letter to the city police commissioner to take action against the Karnataka Pradesh Youth Congress Committee president for using an animal at a protest. While staging the protest, the workers brought in a donkey carrying a man to ridicule the ruling party.

SPCA members say that they have requested the commissioner to take action under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act 1960 and the Prevention of Cruelty to Draught and Pack Animals Rule, 1965.

Dr Umapathy, member secretary of Bangalore SPCA, told BM: "We have written to the police commissioner that no permission be given to rallies that involve animals. Subjecting an animal to unnecessary pain is illegal under Section 11(1)(a) of the PCA Act."

In the city, donkeys have been used for political protests often. A file photo of a protest against LPG price hike.

Animal rights activists vexed

Animal rights activists point out that as per the Prevention of Cruelty to Draught and Pack Animals Rule, no person can cause any animal to carry a load exceeding the weight specified under the rule. For a donkey, the maximum weight specified is 50 kilograms.

"At the event, people were made to sit on the donkey and the animal was manhandled. This is not only an offense as per the PCA Act but is also a crime under the Prevention of Cruelty to Draught and Pack Animals Rule, 1965.

"According to the act, a donkey can carry a maximum load of 50 kg of cloth only," said Arun Prasad, an animal rights activist in the city.

"This was an unfortunate incident whereby the animal was used as a symbol of mockery and was mistreated in a crowded and noisy gathering. These were the considerations that the EC had made before prohibiting the use of animals in political rallies and campaigns," said Shreya Paropkari, a lawyer and senior manager, Farm Animal Protection & Cruelty Response, Humane Society International/India.

Conviction avenues

According to the animal law specialists, an FIR can be booked against the offenders under the Karnataka Police Act.

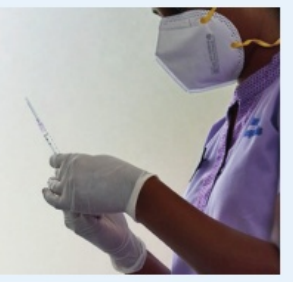
"The police can register an NCR and can look at the animal cruelty aspect under the Police Act, which is a cognizable offense here. If the police investigate the matter judiciously, an FIR can be registered, and a chargesheet can be filed as per the CrPC Act," said Shreya.

"The animal was dragged around and was abused in full public view. It should be accorded justice," said Arun.

FAKE NEWS BUSTER MIRROR

SALINE WATER WON'T KEEP COVID-19 AT BAY

THE CLAIMS
Warm water or saline will protect you from getting sick if you're exposed to the coronavirus.



SO, WHAT'S THE TRUTH?
Reports are circulating that drinking or bathing in warm or hot water, or washing out the inside of your nose with saline (salt) solution, will protect you from covid-19 if you are exposed to the coronavirus. These reports are not true. The best ways to prevent infection are to get vaccinated, wearing a mask, and practice hand hygiene and physical distancing.

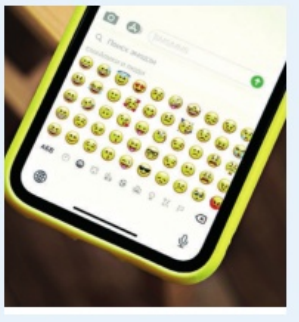
BUST FAKE NEWS WITH MIRROR
9591233247
Let's separate the news from the noise, Bengaluru. Tell us about that incredible-sounding story/news/alert that you've received on WhatsApp or social media and Bangalore Mirror researchers and editors will see if it checks out. If it doesn't, we'll call it out

TOPCOMMENTS

New-age lingo

Our very topical story 'Internet slang is taking over, educators are concerned' was met with some equally interesting reactions.

Ganapathy K wrote: "I am concerned about it, but internet slang will never fade away. Whether this will continue or not, you can keep a watch until they turn 18? I guess students should understand using internet slang or at least learn to reduce them. As Bengaluru is IT hub, these things will happen. Even in IT sector, people use different slangs and languages and technical words to convey messages and protocols. So, the concern here is not language, what matters is what they wantto convey. IDK or 'I don't know', k or 'okay', whatever it is, ask what they really want to convey. If they say anything that makes people concerned, then take apt actions. Languages are evolving, that's the fact."



Prashob D'Souza @prashob_d, said: "Especially the younger generation. They seem to have forgotten their spelling."

WEBHITS

3 most-read articles on the Mirror site

- Power-packed petrol bunks soon in Bengaluru
- Why civic apathy is cyclical
- Decoding cyber crime

The lure of 'antisocial media'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

social media and befriended her. "He lured her into meeting him. His accomplice met her near her house from where she was taken to a 'live band' in Upparpet. She was trafficked from Jharkhand and forced to work in the 'live band' in Bengaluru when our team rescued her. The family had no idea about her being in contact with the accused. The family thought she was angry after an argument at home and had stepped out to get some snacks. The prime accused has still not been traced but the three accused in the city who were in touch with the prime accused through phone calls were nabbed. One of the accused met her and convinced her to go along," he said.

The DCP added that many young girls and women are being lured into such traps and people need to be aware of such criminals and their modus operandi to prevent such instances.

"These are young girls who do not know the world and parents need to be careful and monitor their activity on the internet and social media to keep them safe from criminals lurking online," he said.

A senior officer said the prime accused got in touch with the victim in December and was in constant touch with her through messages and phone calls.

"The accused informed her that she could earn good money through attending events in the city as she was very good looking and told her that he would get her some event contracts, so that she can work and be independent. Believing him, she went out to meet him but the accused's accomplice met her and took her to the place. She was not aware of the work at the 'live band' and was shown around the place so as to 'get accustomed to the work culture'. We rescued her before she was forced to work there. In many cases, it wouldn't just end at 'live bands', and girls would be trafficked to other cities and would be forced into prostitution. We need to educate our children and the public not to befriend such people online and trust them completely or step out to meet them secretly without the family's knowledge. Once children are aware of the consequences and reality, they would be careful and would share everything with parents," he said.

Shetty said social media is being misused in several ways by criminals who are into human trafficking, kidnapping and blackmailing. "In this case, as the girl is a minor, the accused have been booked under POCSO act, and for human trafficking. We are still trying to trace the prime accused who is at large," he said.

BATTER VANITHA HANGS HER BOOTS

Batter VR Vanitha, who represented the country in six women's ODIs and 16 T20Is from 2014 to 2016, on Monday announced retirement from all forms of the game at the age of 31.

She made her announcement via Twitter thanking team-mates Jhulan Goswami and Mithali Raj and others.

Vanitha also thanked the two state associations — Karnataka and Bengal — that she represented in domestic cricket. "19 years ago, when I started playing, I was just a little girl who loved sport. Even to this day, my love for cricket remains the same. My heart says continue playing, my body says stop and I have decided to listen to the latter. Time is ripe to hang my boots," Vanitha said. —PTI

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I Mohamed Arham Yusuf S/o Fazlur Rehman Nayakanahutti Yusoof R/o # 729,1st Main,2nd Phase,7th Block,bsk 3rd Stage Near Auden School, Bengaluru Pin: 560085 have changed my name to Mohammed Arham Yusuf for all purposes.

I, Tabraz Khan S/o, Inayathulla Khan R/o No 624 1st cross 1st main Rd, R K Hedgenagar, Dr Shivarama Karanth Nagar, B'luru-77 have changed my name to Tabrez Khan and my correct Dob is 01/03/1987 instead of 02/12/1986

I Bhagyasri Kalluru W/o Brahmaiah Pothuri R/o # 79, Ward No 28, Gold smith colony, Belagal Cross, Cowl Bazar, Bellary Karnataka-583102 have changed my name to Bhagyasri Pothuri for all purposes.

I Nidhi Kumari W/o Abhijeet Sureka R/o E-603,Orchid Lakeview Apartment, Kariyamana Agrahara, Bellandur, Bengaluru-03 have changed my name to Nidhi Sureka

I, Maimunisa W/o Asif Ali Khan R/o 51, Ward No-15, Court Mohalla, 1st Cross, Near Miller Pet Masjid, Bellary-583101, have changed my name to M Maimunnisa Begum.

I Viveksagar Krishnamurthy Radhakrishna S/o RK Narasimhamurthy R/o D-302 Gaana Regent Channasandra Bnglr-61 India have changed my name to Vivek Sagar

I Ahmad Shameen Bhanu Abdul Azeez R/o #8 1st Cross Marrappa Garden Church Road Benson Town Bengaluru 560046 have changed my name to Ahmad Shameen Bhanu

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Look who just skittered into view? New frog species

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A new species of skipper frog has been discovered by a team of researchers from the freshwater bodies of the western coastal plains of India. The discovery has been made in a collaborative effort from the scientists of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Mount Carmel College (MCC) Bengaluru, and the National Institute of Science, Education and Research (NISER), Bhubaneshwar.

The frog has been scientifically named as Euphlyctis jaladhara with a common name Jaladhara skittering frog, suggestive of the frog's habitat - a deposit of water or a reservoir of water. Initially, it was spotted in the freshwater bodies around the Thattekad Bird Sanctuary, Kerala, and then multiple populations have been identified all along the western coastal plains of India from Kerala to Gujarat through Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and Diu, Daman, Dadra Nagar Haveli Union Territories.

The research finding has been published in the international journal Zootaxa, published from New Zealand. The discovery was part of the Zoological Survey of India's (WGRC, Kozhikode) faunal exploratory and documentation programme in the Thattekad Bird Sanctuary.

Incidentally, this is the second new species of skittering frog from the

locality. The earlier species, the Kerala pond grog - Phrynoderma kerala, was also discovered in the same region by this same group of researchers in 2021. In the recent past this is the first time that a wide range of new species of frog species has been discovered which is having its confirmed range of distribution in at least five states.

Initial studies suggest that the new species is found in freshwater bodies along the western edge of the foothills of the Western Ghats and the western coastal plains.

The new species looks similar to the common skittering frog (Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis), which is predominantly distributed in the eastern coastal plains, Deccan Plateau and Western Ghats of peninsular India which was discovered 220 years ago.

Members of the aquatic frog genus, Euphlyctis are important bioindicators for freshwater systems, and thus this discovery strengthens the need to protect freshwater habitats around the country. The authors hope to identify more species in these two groups from the country.

Scientist KP Dinesh said amphibians are the "living vertebrate link between the vertebrate life in water and land' and the new species is predominantly a freshwater frog and these are the first vertebrate organisms to get affected due to water pollution due to their primitive body plan".

Although most of the amphibians discovered in the country are reported from the forested areas, they are well protected in terms of species conservation. But for the new species like the 'Jaladhara skittering frog' special conservation plans need to be focused as their distribution is flanked between the salt waters of Arabian Sea in and the foothills of the Western Ghats hill chains.

Exams conducted smoothly under uniform row cloud

All students sit for exams; Muslim students removed hijab while writing the exam

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Meanwhile, students of class 10 too attended a preparatory exam, in the city on Monday

Amid the ongoing hijab row, the final practical examination for II PU science students began at various colleges in North Bengaluru on Monday in a peaceful manner. While many students reached the campuses in religious attire, they sat for the practical examinations without hijabs and burqas.

"The practical examination for II PU began today and it went on smoothly. While we have a dress code for the students on campus to follow, we decided to do away with it for the ongoing examination period. There are few girl students from the Muslim community in our college. Although they came to the campus in religious attire for the examination, they remove it before entering the campus," said Dr. Netravati N, principal, Vivekananda PU College.

Girl students had staged a protest against the Government PU College in Yelahanka last week after they were not allowed to enter the classrooms in religious attire. However, the exam went on smoothly at the centre on Monday. "All the students, including those from the Muslim community, attended the exam. Although they reached the campus in burqas and hijabs, they removed it and attended the exam. We are strictly not allowing religious attire on our campus due to the High Court's recent interim order. But, the students did not raise any objections and followed the order. The exam will continue up to March 7," said a representative of Government PU College in Yelahanka.

On some campuses, the practical examination is starting only on Tuesday and is expected to be event free.

"The II PU practical examination at our campus is starting from Tuesday and will go on till 28 February. Students have been coming to the campus and are following the rules and regulations without any difficulties. Ours is a campus with a strict dress code and although many students come in religious attire, they are supposed to remove it before they enter the classrooms. We are expecting a peaceful environment throughout the examination," said Sr. Rincy Joseph, principal, St. Anne's PU College in Vasanth Nagar.

Prohibitory orders around institutions in city extended till March 8

The prohibitory orders restricting any gathering or agitation around educational institutions in the city, in view of the ongoing Hijab controversy, have been extended till March 8.

The initial orders passed on February 9 will be in force till February 22 morning. Passing a fresh order on Monday, Bengaluru police commissioner Kamal Pant said in certain parts of the state, protests have been witnessed in connection with strict enforcement of uniform rules in schools/colleges.

As the agitations would have disturbed public peace and order, it was considered essential to initiate proper security measures to maintain public peace and order in Bengaluru city. "Since the issue is still alive and possibility of holding protests, for and against the same (uniform) in Bengaluru city cannot be ruled out, it is considered appropriate to extend the aforementioned prohibitory orders issued under section 144 of the CrPC for another two weeks to restrict any gathering, agitation or protests of any type around the schools, PU colleges, degree colleges, or other similar educational institutions in Bengaluru city," the order said.

Several parts of the state have been witnessing protests over hijab since December end. —PTI

3 arrested after Bajrang Dal worker's stabbing in Shivamogga

Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said on Monday that the police have arrested three persons in connection with the killing of Harsha (26), a Bajrang Dal worker who was stabbed to death in Shivamogga on Sunday night.

Meanwhile, the situation in Shivamogga continues to be volatile with protesters torching a police bus on Monday.

The procession march organised for Harsha turned violent as incidents of stone pelting, and torching of vehicles were reported from Shivamogga, forcing the police to use tear gas and lathi charge against the protesters.

Meanwhile, the Bajrang Dal has called for a state-wide bandh on February 23 condemning the killing of one of its activists.

The police have arrested a person named Kasif in connection with the murder. Based on the information provided by him, two other accused have been arrested from Bengaluru. After committing the murder, the accused came to Bengaluru while Kasif stayed back to avoid suspicion,the police said. The accused have told the police that a gang of five people had killed Harsha and the police have launched a hunt to arrest the two absconding accused. Jnanendra said there no decision has been taken as such to impose ban on any organisation. "We will see what can be done in this regard. I am not in a position to share any information on the probe," he said.

The accused told the police gang of five people had killed Harsha. A hunt is on to arrest the two absconding accused

'Violence will not be allowed to spread any further'

Harsha, a resident of Seegehatti, was attacked by a group of unknown persons at Bharati Colony here on Sunday night, following which he was taken to McGann Hospital where he succumbed to injuries.

In response to a question, Gananendra said Harsha was a karyakarta and there is information that there were a couple of cases against him, and earlier too there was an attack on him. "They are all being looked into." On the violence, Jnanendra said, "we will not allow it to spread, 1,200 men are in Shivamogga for bandobast, there is Rapid Action Force, 200 men are being sent from Bengaluru and 200 are being sent for other districts." **– Agencies**

Marital rape: No more time to Centre

Delhi HC refuses more time to Centre to state stand on pleas to criminalise marital rape, reserves verdict

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Emergency use nod to Corbevax for 12-18 age group

#NEW DELHI

Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company Biological E on Monday received emergency use authorisation from Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for its covid-19 vaccine Corbevax for the 12 to 18 age group.

It is India's first indigenously developed Receptor Binding Domain (RBD) protein sub-unit vaccine against covid-19.

The country's central drug authority had approved the covid-19 vaccine Corbevax for restricted use in emergency situations among adults on December 28, 2019. Biological E received the approval for restricted use in an emergency situation in adolescents aged 12 to less than 18 years based on interim results (of the phase II/III clinical study).

Mahima Datla, Managing Director, Biological E Limited said they are pleased with this "significant development", which helps extend the reach of the vaccine to the age group of 12 to 18 years in the country.

Hyderabad-based pharma firm Biological E makes Corbevax

"We truly believe that with this approval, we are even closer to finishing our global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Once fully vaccinated, children can resume their activities and educational pursuits in schools and colleges without any apprehension," she said.

"We thank all the participants in the clinical trials, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) and Department of Biotechnology, Govt of India, Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (TSTHI) and the principal investigators and clinical site staff who have extended their support during the last several months," she added.

An official statement from the pharmaceutical firm stated that in September 2021, it received approval to conduct a Phase II/III clinical trial on Corbevax in children and adolescents aged 5 to 18 years. **ANI**

Lakhimpur: Bereaved kin move SC against bail

Family members seek stay on bail to Union Minister's son Ashish Mishra

#NEW DELHI

A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging grant of bail by the Allahabad High Court to Ashish Mishra, son of Union minister Ajay Mishra, who was arrested in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence that killed eight people including four farmers on October 3 last year.

Three family members of the farmers who were killed in the violence have sought a stay on the February 10 bail order of the Lucknow bench of the high court saying the verdict was "unsustainable in eyes of law as there has been no meaningful and effective assistance by the state to the court in the matter".

"The lack of discussion in the High Court's order as regards the settled principles for grant of bail is on account of lack of any substantive submissions to this effect by the State as the accused wields substantial influence over the state government as his father is a Union Minister from the same political party that rules the State. "The impugned order is unsustainable in eyes of law as there has been no meaningful and effective assistance by the State to the court in the matter contrary to object of first Proviso to Section 439 of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, which provides that in grave offences notice of bail application should ordinarily be given to the Public Prosecutor," said the plea which has been filed by Jagjeet Singh, Pawan Kashyap and Sukhwinder Singh through lawyer Prashant Bhushan.

There has been an improper and arbitrary exercise contrary to settled law by the HC which has granted bail without at all considering the heinous nature of the crime, it said.

Ashish Mishra, the prime accused in Lakhimpur Kheri violence walks out of jail after being released on bail, in Lakhimpur Kheri

> **The act of deliberately crushing the farmers by the vehicle on the instructions of the accused from the back was not an act of negligence...**
>
> –From the plea filed by family members

Seeking "stay of the impugned bail order", the plea narrated the sequence of evidence and said, "The act of deliberately crushing the peacefully returning farmers by the Thar vehicle on the instructions of the accused from the back was not an act of negligence or carelessness but a preplanned conspiracy as the accused thereafter from the farms circled back to the place of the 'dangal' event at around 4:00 pm and acted as if nothing had happened".

The plea said the HC did not consider the "overwhelming evidence" against the accused, position and status of the accused with reference to the victim and witnesses and the likelihood of him fleeing from justice and repeating the offence. **–PTI**

CBI quizzes ABG Shipyard's Agarwal

#NEW DELHI

Former Chairman and Managing Director of ABG Shipyard Ltd. Rishi Agarwal appeared before the CBI on Monday for questioning in connection with the Rs 22,848 crore alleged banking fraud, the biggest such case registered by the central agency, officials said.

The CBI had questioned him last week as well and would continue to record his statement in the coming days on various aspects of alleged diversion of funds as pointed out in the forensic audit conducted by banks, they said.

The central probe agency had registered an FIR in the matter on February 7, 2022 on a complaint filed by SBI 17 months ago on August 25, 2020.

The agency has also named the then executive director Santhanam Muthaswamy, directors Ashwini Kumar, Sushil Kumar Agarwal and Ravi Vimal Nevetia and another company, ABG International Pvt Ltd, for alleged offences of criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust and abuse of official position under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Prevention of Corruption Act, they said.

Immediately after filing the FIR, the CBI had conducted searches at 13 locations on February 12. **PTI**

Lalu Prasad sentenced to 5 years in jail in fifth fodder scam case

#RANCHI/NEW DELHI

RJD supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav was on Monday sentenced to five years in prison and slapped a fine of Rs 60 lakh by a special CBI court in Ranchi in connection with the fifth fodder scam case involving embezzlement of over Rs 139 crore by Doranda treasury.

The court in the Jharkhand capital pronounced the sentence against the ailing 73-year-old former chief minister of Bihar and 39 others after virtually hearing arguments on the quantum of punishment in the case.

"Lalu Prasad has been sentenced to five years imprisonment while a penalty of Rs 60 lakh has also been imposed on him. The court has given five years imprisonment to four others, four years each for to 32 convicts and three years each to three convicts," CBI counsel BMP Singh told PTI.

After his conviction in the case on February 15, Prasad was lodged in the Birsa Munda Central Jail and then shifted to state-run Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Ranchi, where doctors said on Monday that his condition is "serious but stable".

The ebullient leader suffers from multiple ailments, including renal problems.

In a statement, CBI Spokesperson RC Joshi said the special judge sentenced "40 accused to undergo three to 5 five years rigorous imprisonment with a total fine of Rs. 11.93 crore (approx.)"

RJD supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav has also been fined Rs 60 lakh

"Fine imposed on convicts ranges from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2 crore," Singh said, adding that the highest amount of Rs 2 crore penalty was imposed on supplier Tripurari Mohan Prasad.

The RJD supremo had earlier been sentenced to 14 years in prison and slapped with a fine of Rs 60 lakh in four other cases related to Dumka, Deoghar and Chaibasa treasuries and was in jail since December 2017. **PTI**

In protest

Anganwadi workers raise slogans during a protest rally demanding work regularisations and increase in salaries in Bengaluru on Monday

HEALTH TIP: Spring onions contain vitamin A and other antioxidants such as carotenes and lutein

Pineapples can help joint pain, arthritis, thrombosis, ulcerative colitis cardio-conditions

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Friends with work benefits

Spiral of support from co-workers has knock-on effect on the creative juices

In order to maintain a productive and free-thinking environment that boosts the creativity of employees, employers need to value supportive friendships between colleagues. It is the key to unlocking more resourcefulness and innovation. A new study from the University of Bath's School of Management has revealed that care from a co-worker inspires people to be supportive of their partner at home.

This showed that co-workers had a significant role to play in enabling couples to cope with balancing the demands of work and family life. The study titled, 'Sharing is Caring: The role of Compassionate Love for Sharing Coworker Work-Family Support at home to promote Partners' Creativity at work' was published in the 'Journal of Applied Psychology'.

This spiral of support has knock-on benefits for creative thinking at work. "Employees take the support they receive from co-workers home with them, and in a loving relationship, they transfer this support to their partner. This might mean they encourage them to open up about stresses, seek to resolve issues, or make improvements to the juggle of work-life arrangements that benefits the family," said Professor Yasin Rofcanin from the University of Bath's Future of Work research centre.

"The result is that both members of a couple benefit. Spouses pass on support received from co-workers and partners will be more creative at work, in what is termed a 'gain spiral. So it pays for employers to recognize the value of caring co-workers."

Over and above work policies, or interventions by supervisors, it is informal support from co-workers that stands out as having the biggest impact on an individual's ability to manage the work-life balance, spilling over to benefit the partner at home and in turn their own creative thinking at work.

Co-worker support can mean being on hand to listen and talk through life's issues and challenges as they arise, offering suggestions for problems at home, as well as providing cover for absence if a child is sick, or other caring responsibilities crop up. The research suggested that organizations should give employees more flexibility to manage caring cover with a colleague without intervention from managers.

The research also alerted employers to the pitfalls of working practices and expectations taking a toll on home life, encouraging employers to be mindful of the detrimental impact on relationships.

"So much research points to the stresses of being in a dual-income couple, it's refreshing to see a win for loving relationships alongside work," said Rofcanin. "While we're not suggesting employers should meddle in relationships, they may be able to positively contribute to the quality of relationships at home by putting policies and procedures in place to minimize work-family conflict, such as limiting overtime and expectations to respond to emails outside of hours."

The study, by the Universities of Bath, VU Amsterdam and IESE Business School, focused on diary entries over five weeks by over 200 full-time, dual-income heterosexual couples in the United States, eighty per cent of which had children.

The researchers acknowledged that there could be drawbacks in relying on co-workers for support with work and family matters, with partners at home feeling jealous and upset about the closeness of 'work spouse' relationships. They suggested that future research could examine the potential of this relationship dynamic to promote conflict at home. **ANI**

MIRRORLIGHTS

Exercise thrice a week in 50s & 60s to keep memory loss at bay

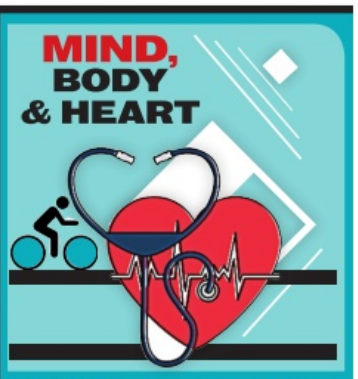
Regular physical activity is essential to not only reduce muscle loss and maintain strength as you age, but also to keep your memory intact. Forgetfulness is part of ageing and may worsen into Alzheimer's disease that may affect the quality of life.

A new study has shown that practising aerobic exercises like cycling, walking or jogging thrice a week in the 50s and 60s can help stave off memory loss.

"Everyone always asks, 'How much should I be exercising? What's the bare minimum to see improvement?'" said lead author Sarah Aghjayan, doctoral student in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh. "From our study, it seems like exercising about three times a week for at least four months is how much you need to reap the benefits in episodic memory," she added.

Episodic memory is the kind that deals with events that happened to you in the past. It's also one of the first to decline with age.

Exercise that gets the heart pumping has shown promise in increasing brain health, and experiments in mice show that it improves memory, but studies looking at the same link in humans have come out mixed. **–IANS**



All you need to know about...

Acute sinusitis

What is it? We have four pairs of sinuses in the skull bones of the face. They are filled with air to make the skull light and to give the voice resonance.

But they can become infected, producing yellow pus and causing quite severe facial pain.

What are the symptoms? A blocked or stuffy nose causing difficulty breathing through your nose, facial pain and thick, yellow-green mucus running from your nose or down the back of your throat. Tenderness, swelling and pressure around your eyes, cheeks, nose or forehead that worsens when bending over.

You may also have toothache, headaches, altered sense of smell, ear pressure, fever and fatigue.

What causes it? Viruses are the commonest cause of sinusitis and it can accompany colds and flu. When it turns into a bacterial infection, the discharge turns yellowish-green.

What's the treatment? Most cases of acute sinusitis get better on their own especially if you use steam inhalations.

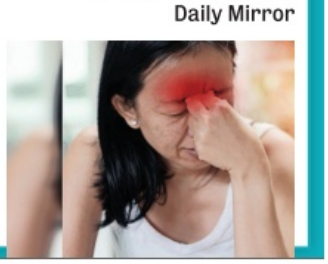
Antibiotics usually aren't needed because it is caused by a virus and not by bacteria.

However, severe or persistent symptoms may require a long course of antibiotics to eradicate the infection.

Medical treatments include a saline nasal spray to rinse your nasal passages, a nasal steroid spray that helps curb and treat inflammation, and decongestants in liquid, tablet or spray form.

Nasal polyps and allergies should be excluded by an ear, nose and throat specialist.

—Dr Miriam Stoppard, Daily Mirror



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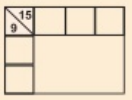
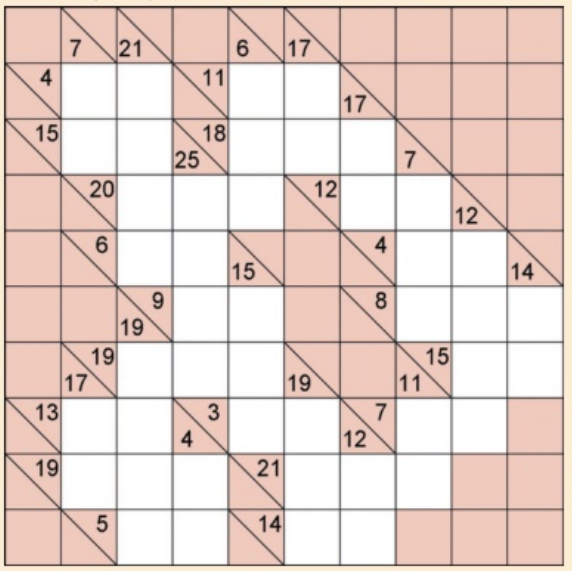
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

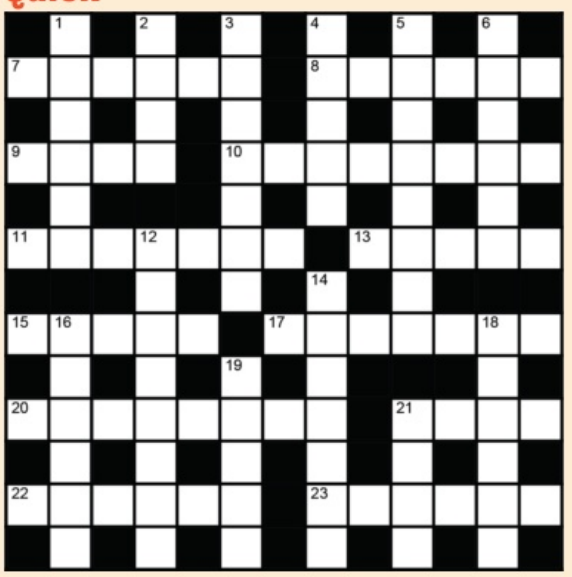


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Capital of Maharashtra (6)
8 On ___ of : in the interest of? (6)
9 Moorage site (4)
10 Hindered, discouraged (8)
11 Grasslands (7)
13 Formal visitor (5)
15 Explosive sounds (5)
17 Samurai code (7)
20 Initiates a topic for discussion (8)
21 Poker opener (4)
22 A rotten chap (3-3)
23 Important city in Pakistan (6)

DOWN

1 Relating to wolves (6)
2 Ski lift–"brat" anagram ? (1-3)
3 Microsoft OS (7)
4 Borders on (5)
5 Painstaking and complete; careful and diligent (8)
6 Sucks dry (6)
12 Belittles, casts down or cheapens (8)
14 ___ Market: Market In Shivajinagar (7)
16 Antenna (6)
18 Senile old person (6)
19 Hoodlums or bullies? (5)
21 Lata's almost equally famous sister (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: M EQUALS G

TAJKM KAZBJKM NAY AZBXYI JI ZBX LKTAJKM AN ALYIXCFXI.

Linemaro

I am afraid I am an incurable romantic

Mindchow

Truth is not determined by majority vote

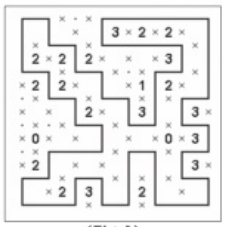
Joke of the day

What did the stamp tell the envelope? Stick with me and we'll go places

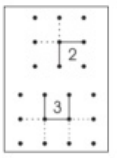
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



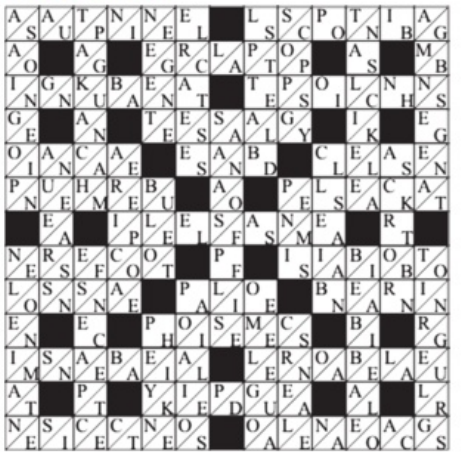
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

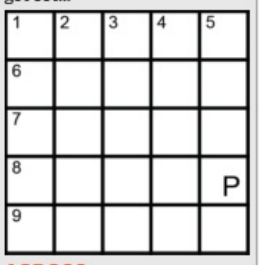
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

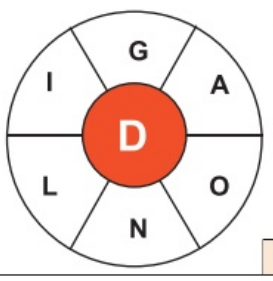
1 As CGS; 6 Plead;
7 Evil a; 8 Peels;
9 Ult mo

DOWN

1 Map as; 2 CE LOL;
3 A due I; 4 Lave G;
5 Pelts

Mensapuzzle

What is the smallest natural number that contains all six vowels — a, e, i, o, u and y?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

13 Average; 15 Good; 17 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	4			7				1
8				1	4	2		7
2			8			6		
					2			6
	1						4	
6			9					
		4			8			9
5		9	1	3				2
3				9			1	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 13

2 2 3 6

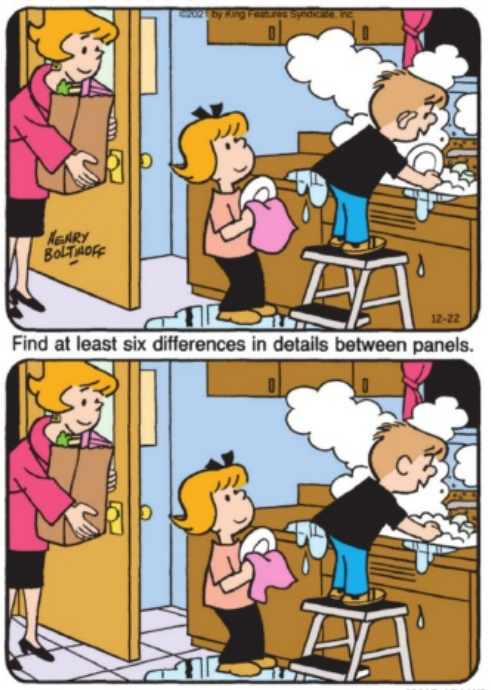
Medium = 8

2 7 8 9

Hard = 9

2 8 9 6

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

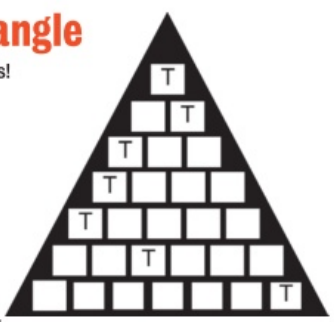
Differences: 1. Towel is different. 2. Leg is moved. 3. Dish is missing. 4. Bow is moved. 5. Ear is different. 6. Floor is different.

Riddler

A girl throws a ball as hard as she can. It comes back to her, even though nothing and nobody touches it. How?

Alpha triangle

1 Letter of the cross!
2 Pronoun
3 Can
4 Fork feature
5 Smattering
6 Measuring
7 Imagined story



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

WHERE'S LIL TONIGHT?
SHE AND EDNA ARE WATCHING THE ENDEARING HOLIDAY CLASSIC "A SPA DAY FOR FROSTY"
HEY, WE'RE GONNA NEED A MOP IN THE SAUNA
©2021 creators.com
www.creators.com

Hart of the city

MERRY CHRISTMAS, CHARLOTTE!
THANKS, BRENT!
THIS BOOK WILL TEACH YOU HOW TO READ CYPHERS. AND THIS ENCODED LETTER HAS THE LOCATION OF A POSSIBLE SECRET TREASURE. GOOD LUCK!
BRENT, WE HAVE GOT TO HANG OUT MORE. SINCE WHEN WERE YOU THIS COOL?
SINCE BIRTH, I GUESS!
HART OF THE CITY © 2021 ARSONIS MOREL
@DOONICS.COM/@ARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

CAN I ARRANGE TO BE YOUR FIRST STOP SO I CAN GET MY STUFF RIGHT AFTER MIDNIGHT?
THAT ONLY COMES WITH SANTA PRIME.
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be able to make a balance between your earnings and expenses which may boost your bank balance. You are likely to perform better in your job. Your boss can give you new responsibilities in terms of promotions. You may get back your money which was stuck. You may be able to control your opponents and hidden enemies.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be in a hurry. You are advised to drive safely. But with the blessing of elders, you may come out from the messy situation. You are likely to be more romantic in your love life; harmony in domestic life may come. You may expect some positive results in new partnerships. Lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments. Students may hear good news in terms of academics.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel dull due to sleeplessness; you may be scattered towards your goals which may affect your working efficiency; you may plan to visit some religious place. But in the late evening, you may be blessed by your elders; you may find out your mistakes and may make a good plan for coming day. You are advised to take care of your parent's health.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, your subordinate staff may be cooperative; it may help you to complete postponed projects. You are likely to attend some social event which may boost your network; it may help you in your work or social life. You may plan to go for an outing with friends. Some disputes with friends may be settled now. Students are advised to avoid carelessness.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, your communication skills may help you on the professional front. You are likely to be more polite with everyone around you which may help you to speed up your projects. Lovebirds are likely to exchange their views with each other which may build a foundation of their relationship.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you will be blessed by the moon. New partnership may give you benefits. Your energy level is likely to be high. Your hard work and enthusiasm may pay off in terms of financial gains. Self-respect may protect you from negative people around you.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel dull and unhappy. You are advised to avoid harsh conversation with friends and family members. You may also not be able to get proper reciprocation of your hard work. You need to follow your intuition. You're advised to keep patience while taking some important decision.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, new sources of income are likely to be opened. Your past investments may give you a good profit, which will boost your bank balance. You are likely to connect with a social organisation which will increase your network. Singles may find soulmate in terms of marriage.

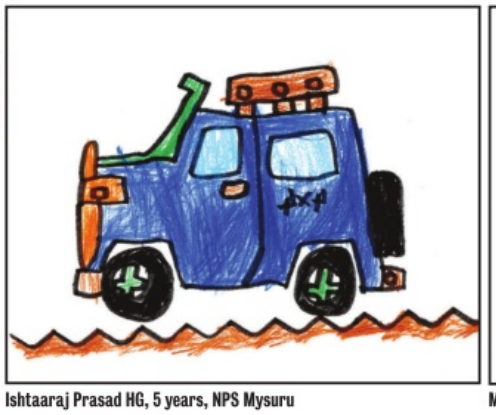
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may expect some instant gains in your business which may boost your confidence level as well as bank balance. You're advised to avoid stress in domestic life. There would be some momentum in the business and on the work front. Your prestige may be increased. You may also plan for an overseas trip.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, blessing from elders may make you confident. You can follow your intuition before taking any initiatives which may help you at work. Your intuition may help to gain more in terms of finance. You are likely to visit some religious place with your family members. You must control your arrogance to enjoy your domestic life. Students may expect good results with the help of destiny.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, things would not be favourable. You may feel dull and unhappy. Some mysterious fear may make you upset. You are likely to be attracted by occult. You may feel lack of confidence which may affect your work. It is better to avoid rash driving and risky adventure tours.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you will be blessed by moon. Love would be in the air in terms of personal life. Singles may find suitable match. You may do better in terms of professional life. Your friends and subordinate staff are likely to support you.

KIDZONE



Ishtaaraj Prasad HG, 5 years, NPS Mysuru

Myra Mehra, 8 years, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

BULL'S EYE
dial, ding, dingo, doing, doling, gild, glad, gland, goad, gold, gonad, idol, laid, land, load, LOADING, nodal

SOLVE IN 1M
27÷3(1+3)÷6(1+2)
27÷3(4)÷6(1+2)
9(4)÷6(1+2)
36÷6(1+2)
6+12 = 18

FAST FIVE

S	C	A	G	S
P	E	D	A	L
A	L	I	V	E
S	L	E	E	P
M	O	U	L	T

QUOTE UNCODE
Doing nothing for others is the undoing of ourselves.

STRIKE OUT

S	U	P	I	N	E	S	C	O	T	I	A			
A	A	E	R	A	T	O		A		B				
I	G	U	A	N	A		E	P	O	C	H	S		
O	N	C	E		E	N	D		C	L	A	N		
G	N		E	S	S	A	Y		K		E			
N	E	H	R	U		A		E	L	E	C	T		
A		I	L	L	F	A	M	E		T				
E	R	E	C	T		F		S	A	B	O	T		
O	S	S	A		P	L	O		N	A	R	I		
I	S	A	B	E	L		E	N	A	B	L	E		
N		C		P	O	E	M	S		B		G		
B	A	N	G	S		B	U	S	H	I	D	O		
	E		R		T		S			O				
	B	A	D	O	W	S		G	U	E	S	T		
	M	E	A		A		E		L	E	C	T		
		N		O		S		O		D				
	P	I	E	R		D	E	T	E	R	R	E	D	
	P		A		N		U		O		E			
M	U	M	B	A	I		B	E	H	A	L	F		
L		T		W		A		T		B				

QUICK

L		S		S		L		A		D				
I		D		U		E		S		A				
B	R	O	A	C	H	E	S		A	N	T	E		
	E		R		T		S			O				
B	A	N	G	S		B	U	S	H	I	D	O		
	E		S		R		G		U	E	S	T		
M	E	A	D	O	W	S		G	U	E	S	T		
		N		O		S		O		D				
P	I	E	R		D	E	T	E	R	R	E	D		
	P		A		N		U		O		E			
M	U	M	B	A	I		B	E	H	A	L	F		
L		T		W		A		T		B				

MENSA PUZZLE
All six vowels in the number 1,025 (one thousand twenty-five)

RIDDLER
She throws it straight up in the air!

SUDOKU

3	2	7	4	9	6	8	1	5
5	8	9	1	3	7	4	6	2
1	6	4	5	2	8	3	7	9
6	5	8	9	4	1	7	2	3
7	1	2	3	6	5	9	4	8
4	9	3	7	8	2	1	5	6
2	7	1	8	5	9	6	3	4
8	3	5	6	1	4	2	9	7
9	4	6	2	7	3	5	8	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
T, It, Tin, Tine, Tinge, Melting, Filament.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 × 6 + 2 + 2 = 13
Medium
8 + 7 + 2 − 9 = 8
Hard
6 + 2 / 8 × 9 = 9

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # After 39 days, it's a wrap for Bhumi
The shoot of 'Bhakshak' starring Bhumi Pednekar was recently wrapped up in Lucknow after a single schedule that spanned 39 days

Sanya joins SRK for Atlee's film

Film City is at the peak of its activity - Shah Rukh Khan's untitled next with director Atlee has resumed shooting. His co-artiste, Sanya Malhotra, will join the current schedule, which is expected to last only a week or so. However, it has made the actor's fans rather happy and excited. The film by Atlee, which also stars Nayanthara, was being shot between Mumbai and a few outstation locations until September-October last year. Sanya had also shot with SRK around that time for a few days. Work came to a grinding halt, following a few ups and downs in the King Khan's family domain. The film is now back on schedule and will be completed shortly. The current schedule focusses on a couple of crucial sequences.

According to a unit hand, "Everyone was waiting to reunite and resume shooting for the film. People in the industry, and those in the know are already hailing it for its production value and storyline. The schedule will be a short one -- SRK will get busy with Pathan and Sanya's dates are blocked for her next, 'Hit: The First Case', with Rajkummar Rao. The rest of Sanya's portions in the film will be shot later."

Sanya will be seen in 'Love Hostel', with Bobby Deol and Vikrant Massey this week. She's also in talks to play the lead in the Hindi remake of 'The Great Indian Kitchen', one of Malayalam cinema's most loved films in recent times. —ETimes

To have and to hold

At least two couples got hitched; and some made it kind of official this month

Farhan Akhtar and Shibani Dandekar's wedding was a far cry from Bollywood's typical band baaja baaraat! The couple exchanged vows against a picturesque setup in Khandala. Guests hit the dance floor and booze was flowing like there was no tomorrow. The couple on Monday evening made their first public appearance as husband and wife and posed for the mandatory post-wedding pic.

While Imran from 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara' got hitched, it seems like Arjun is also following suit. Over the weekend Hrithik's lady love Saba bonded with the actor's family and kids, giving way to rumours that the two are way more serious than we had expected.

Speaking of weddings, filmmaker Luv Ranjan also got hitched in a dreamy affair. Overlooking the iconic Taj Mahal, Luv and his college sweetheart Alisha Vaid tied the knot in Agra. Ranbir Kapoor, Arjun Kapooor, Shraddha Kapoor, Jackky Bhagnani, Rakul Preet Singh and Kartin Aaryan made the wedding one starry affair.

And the mushiness in B-Town doesn't end here as we also spotted lovebirds Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani at an award ceremony. At the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film award 2022, the duo took home the critics award for their performance in 'Shershaah'. Celebrating their victory, Sidharth and Kiara shared a warm hug and the internet melted gushing over their romance. —ETimes

First look!

Samantha Ruth Prabhu's awaited first-look from Shaakunthalam is out and the wait was well worth it

In the poster, the actress looks dreamy and romantic dressed in a simple white saree with flowers entangling her hair and body. She can be seen sitting in a forest while the forest animals look at her. The actress shared it on social media, writing, "Presenting ..Nature's beloved.. the Ethereal and Demure.. "Shakuntala" from #Shaakuntalam. (sic)" The mythological romance is directed by Gunashekar and shooting for the film has already been wrapped up.

Samantha earlier stated that she has never worked as hard as she has for this film – especially when it comes to her body. Dev Mohan and Allu Arjun's daughter Allu Arha are her co-stars in the film, with the latter making her on-screen debut.

She plays Prince Bharat in the flick based on the story of Shakunthala. It is one of the greatest love stories ever penned and is set in the Himalayas. Massive sets were built in Hyderabad for the film.

Shaakunthalam will hit screens not just in Telugu but also in Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada and Hindi. The film will see Samantha in costumes by Neeta Lulla and the makers are marketing the film as #MythologyForMillennials. Further details are awaited.

What gave Tom Holland the blushes

Hollywood star Tom Holland didn't want people to see his chest hair in 'Uncharted'.

The 25-year-old actor joked he hoped he was well groomed for filming because he was embarrassed about audiences seeing him without his shirt on in the new action movie, reports femalefirst.co.uk. After being asked by host Kent 'Smallzy' Small if he was nervous about having his body blown up on an IMAX screen, Tom said on 'Smallzy's Celebrity Small Talk' podcast: "I hoped I shaved my nipples on those days because I have the most embarrassing chest hair."

Tom shared that joining the film's cast - which also includes Mark Wahlberg, Antonio Banderas and Sophia Taylor Ali - was "an easy decision" for him as had gotten to know the character while playing the video game.

He said: "It was an easy decision. The initial script that I read was fantastic. The character was someone that I really enjoyed playing in the video games, so someone I was excited to bring to life on the big screen."

Along with this, the 'Spiderman: No Way Home' star also relished the opportunity for a "new challenge" after the Marvel franchise dropped its most recent installment in December.

Holland, who is in a relationship with 'Euphoria' star Zendaya, said: "Also I was excited for a new challenge. You know, this film has been incredibly difficult to make for all sorts of reasons, but equally has been as rewarding, so it was an easy decision."